4. Guwahati
5. Jorhat
6. Lilabari
7. Silchar
8. Dibrugarh
9. Shillong
10. Zero
11. Cooch-Behar

(b) The commercial activities at Guwahati are managed by Vayudoot staff at Guwahati and at other stations in the North Eastern region. The flight booking and handling is done by the ticketing/handling agents under the supervision of Vayudoot staff. Adequate engineering/maintenance infrastructure have been provided by Vayudoot for operating Dornier/Fokker services to various stations in the North Eastern region. These facilities include trained engineering manpower, ground support equipment and other operational infrastructure.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reasons Vayudoot, at present, has no plan either to airlink new stations or to step up existing frequency in the North Eastern Region.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The total number of embarking and disembarking passengers using Vayudoot services during the last three years was as follows:—

Sectors	No. of passengers
1. Dibrugarh-Along	182
Along-Dibrugarh	221
2. Dibrugarh Passighat	522
Passighat-Dibrugarh	413
3. Dibrugarh-Tezu	3722
Tezu-Dibrugarh	3223
4. Dibrugarh-Lilabari	6770
Lilabari-Dibrugarh	6009
5. Lilabari-Zero	119
Zero-Lilabari	115
6. Lilabari-Daparizo	129
Daparizo-Lilabari	137
7. Lilabari-Guwahati	2719
Guwahati-Lilabari	2843

Development of Tourism in North Eastern States

4462. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of recognised travel agencies in the North-Eastern States at present;

(b) the details of specific schemes undertaken by Government to promote tourism and to augment the existing tourist facilities in the said States:

(c) whether Government had any plans to introduce hover-craft services in the Brahmaputra river between Guwahati and Dibrugarh to promote tourism in Assam as well as speedy and cheap transportation between the two major towns of Assam in the recent past; if so, the reasons for not implementing the same so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the introduction of the said hover-craft services in the near future; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Central Department of Tourism has a scheme of granting recognition to travel agents, tour operators and tourist transport operators. This recognition is granted to such agencies which fulfil the conditions laid down for this purpose. There are no recognised travel agencies in the North-Eastern States at present.

(b) to (d) Development and augmentation of tourism infrastructural facilities at any place is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for specific projects received from the State Govts. depending upon their merits, availability of funds and inter-se priority. Based on this criteria, financial assistance has also been provided for tourism projects in the North-Eastern States.